



MAY 2005

Belgian Society of Human Genetics

[www.beshg.be](http://www.beshg.be)NEWSLETTER  
of the BeSHG**Board**

M. Vikkula, president  
F. Speleman, secretary  
S. Seneca, treasurer  
L Van Maldergem  
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G. Van Camp  
J. Vermeesch

***Dear colleagues, dear friends,******News from the 5th Annual Meeting and General Assembly***

The 28.01.2005 meeting in Liège with the theme of **Genetics and Inflammation** was a great success. About 200 participants followed the exciting program and many excellent posters. Several international speakers presented recent data, and overall the program was most interesting. In addition, we had an excellent session of selected oral communications from young scientists (< 35 years). This is planned to be extended in our future meetings. The results from our questionnaire showed a high satisfaction on the Liège meeting in all aspects. Opinions varied between a thematic annual meeting or a more general coverage of human genetics without a clear majority of either group. Overall, the questionnaire showed a heterogeneity of clinicians and basic scientists within our annual meeting participants, which underlines the importance to cover widely human genetics during our annual meetings.

The general assembly renewed 4 board members, and elected one new board member: Guy Van Camp from Antwerp. Our long-time treasurer Frank Kooy resigned, and the board would hereby again like to thank him for his important efforts and services for our society. The general assembly of the BeSHG re-elected Miikka Vikkula as the society's president. At the first board meeting, the board re-elected Frank Speleman as secretary, and Sara Seneca as the treasurer.

***Workgroups***

1) The board has decided to re-initiate the workgroup on **predictive genetic testing**. The previous guidelines can be found in the BeSHG web-site. If you are interested in participating in this workgroup, let its president Professor Gerry Evers-Kiebooms ([gerry.kiebooms@uz.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:gerry.kiebooms@uz.kuleuven.ac.be)) know.

2) « **GUIDELINES FOR CLINICAL CYTOGENETIC DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES IN BELGIUM** ». Those interested in participating in the work of this working group can contact Joris Vermeesch at [joris.vermeesch@uz.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:joris.vermeesch@uz.kuleuven.ac.be). The text of the guidelines on prenatal diagnosis can now be viewed on the BeSHG website.

BeSHG c/o Prof. Miikka Vikkula, Laboratory of Human Molecular Genetics (GEHU),  
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3) A permanent working group has been installed coined **BCG-Ho (Belgian CytoGeneticists in Hemato-oncology)**. Aims of the workgroup are (1) to share experience, teaching, improve contacts with molecular geneticists in the field, (2) quality assessment, accreditation and technical issues (3) peer review of patient files for studies, case presentation (4) research related issues (common projects, call for patients etc...). One particular initiative that has been taken was the FISH questionnaire, which provides us with an overview of the various tests being performed in all centers and evaluation and reporting procedures (for further info contact Dr. Katrina Rack, bcgho@ipg.be).

### **Next Annual Meeting and General Assembly**

will take place in **Antwerp, on Friday 17th of February 2006 (and not on 24<sup>th</sup> as announced in Liège)**. The theme will be: **New Developments in Human Genetics**. Mark your agendas and tell your colleagues! All most recent information concerning this meeting will be posted on the BeSHG web-site ([www.beshg.be](http://www.beshg.be)) under Meetings (6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting).

### **Future BeSHG meetings**

The 2007 meeting will be held in Loverval, and applications (submit to the society's president) are open **until 31/12/2005** for organizing and hosting the 2008 meeting.

### **Our web-site: <http://www.beshg.be>.**

As member of the BeSHG you are cordially invited to make suggestions to the board for improvement of our society's activities. One of the important activities is our web-site (<http://www.beshg.be/>). How useful is it to you? How could it be improved? Let us know by e-mail.

### **Announcements:**

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Annual CIR-conference, **May 27, 2005**  
on 'Gene Patents and Public Health'  
Leuven, Belgium  
<http://www.law.kuleuven.ac.be/cir>

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7th International Research Symposium on the Marfan Syndrome, **September 14-17, 2005**  
Ghent, Belgium  
<http://www.medicongress.com/marfan/>

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2nd Marie Curie Conference on arrayCGH and Molecular Cytogenetics  
Bari, Italy, 2005  
**Wednesday 19th October 2005 - Saturday 22nd October 2005**  
all topics related to arrayCGH and molecular cytogenetics and specific focus on single cell applications and genome structure and evolution  
<http://medgen.ugent.be/arraycgh-mc/>

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VIBRIO2005: The Biology of Vibrios:  
Biodiversity, Genomics, Disease/Epidemiology, Ecology, and Applications  
**November 7-8, 2005**  
Het Pand, Ghent, Belgium  
<http://img.ugent.be/vibrio2005>

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Yours faithfully,

Frank SPELEMAN  
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***Don't forget [www.beshg.be](http://www.beshg.be) !***